

1 **HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 43**

2 (By Mr. Speaker, Mr. Thompson, and Delegate Mahan,
3 on Behalf of All Members of the House)

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6
7 Commemorating the passing of Jackie Withrow, a woman, wife and
8 states woman of enormous compassion and courage who dedicated
9 her life in service to the most vulnerable of West Virginians.

10 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow was born on March 28, 1918, in
11 Mabscott, Raleigh County, West Virginia, with the birth name of
12 Beatrice Von Brickner Neubert but who, early in life, was donned
13 "Jackie Boy" due to her tomboy antics and attitude; and

14 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow, a life long Raleigh County resident,
15 died on November 11, 2010, at the age of ninety-two in Crab
16 Orchard, West Virginia; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1960, Jackie Withrow ran for a seat in the West
18 Virginia House of Delegates, the only woman among twenty four
19 candidates, a "rose among thorns" she stated throughout her
20 campaign, winning the election as one of the top four vote-getters
21 and being reelected eight more times; and

22 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow, while serving in the House of
23 Delegates, championed the medical needs of those in need of long-
24 term care, especially the mentally ill, and was the first female to

1 be named the Chairperson of the House, Health and Welfare
2 Committee, being widely recognized by her colleagues as the
3 resident expert on health care and mental health care; and

4 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow's unfailing work on behalf of the
5 health of West Virginians led her to membership on the Board of
6 Directors of Appalachian Regional Hospitals, the Committee on
7 Prenatal Health, the West Virginia State Plan for Comprehensive
8 Mental Health Services, the National Association for Mental Health
9 and a host of other organizations; and

10 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow's accomplishments of which she was most
11 proud while serving the state as a delegate in the House of
12 Delegates included legislation which transformed the state's mental
13 health care facilities; legislation requiring PKU testing of
14 newborns which serves to prevent the development of neurological
15 abnormalities, including mental retardation; and, for being co-
16 sponsor on the first bill in West Virginia to provide compensation
17 to coal miners suffering from black lung disease; and

18 WHEREAS, During her tenure in the West Virginia Legislature,
19 Jackie Withrow earned the respect and admiration of her peers and
20 became the first woman legislator to serve on the powerful Finance
21 Committee; and

22 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow earned the distinction of being the
23 second longest-serving woman legislator in the history of West
24 Virginia, choosing not to seek reelection in 1978 in order to spend

1 time with her husband, W.W. "Bill" Withrow, to whom she was married
2 for fifty-six years and for whom she was a loving and devoted wife;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, Following her eighteen years in the House of
5 Delegates, a body politic for which she was known to say "is no
6 longer a man's world", Jackie Withrow's service to vulnerable West
7 Virginians continued as she remained active on numerous boards and
8 as a volunteer at the VA Hospital until physically unable to
9 continue; and

10 WHEREAS, Jackie Withrow was a tireless representative voice for
11 our most fragile citizens and truly an advocate of mercy, justice
12 and love; and

13 WHEREAS, The passing of Jackie Withrow must not go unnoticed;
14 therefore, be it

15 *Resolved by the House of Delegates:*

16 That regret is hereby expressed by the members at the passing
17 of Jackie Withrow, a woman who devoted her life to improving
18 conditions of and for humankind's most fragile and vulnerable; a
19 woman of great compassion and love; a woman whose life and actions
20 have given quality of life to untold numbers; a woman without whom
21 countless, vulnerable West Virginians would have undoubtedly
22 suffered; a woman ahead of her times who touched the lives of all
23 with whom she interacted; and, be it

24 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates

1 forward a certified copy of this resolution to Jackie Withrow's
2 nephew and wife, Charles and Zona Neubert; to her great nephews
3 Shane Neubert, Bryan Coulter, Kenneth Cozart, Jimmy Cozart, Rusty
4 Cozart, Jason Cozart; and, to long-time friend, William Wooton.